

Judgment Day

Key Scriptures

John 12:37-50 Although Jesus had performed so many miraculous signs before them, they still refused to believe in him, ³⁸ so that the word of Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled. He said, "Lord, who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" ³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, because again Isaiah said, ⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, so that they would not see with their eyes and understand with their heart, and turn to me, and I would heal them." ⁴¹ Isaiah said these things because he saw Christ's glory, and spoke about him. ⁴² Nevertheless, even among the rulers many believed in him, but because of the Pharisees they would not confess Jesus to be the Christ, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue. ⁴³ For they loved praise from men more than praise from God. ⁴⁴ But Jesus cried out, "The one who believes in me does not believe in me, but in the one who sent me, ⁴⁵ and the one who sees me sees the one who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come as a light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness. ⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not obey them, I do not judge him. For I have not come to judge the world, but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not accept my words has a judge; the word I have spoken will judge him at the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken from my own authority, but the Father himself who sent me has commanded me what I should say and what I should speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. Thus the things I say, I say just as the Father has told me."

Key Point: Jesus was already judged in our place.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What are you most looking forward to doing this spring/summer?

Start thinking: Choose questions to get your group thinking.

- Why do you think the concept of judgment is unpopular in today's culture? How does the idea of a judging God challenge common cultural beliefs?
- What are some of the difficult concepts to grapple with that you see in our text?
- The scriptures teach that we are judged both by works (Rom 2:5-6), and by our heart (Matt 5:8, 26, Mark 16:4). What illustration does Jesus give us that reconciles both of these things? (See Matt 7:16)
- In the context of our passage, what are the reasons people could come under judgment?
- Why do you think Jesus tie the concepts of light and judgment together? (v. 46-47)

Start sharing: Questions to create openness.

- God's attributes, such as love and justice, are never in conflict with each other. But in human experience, how can our love and justice clash?
- In Sunday's message, Kyle said "if there is no judgment day, there's no hope. But if there is a judgment day, there is no hope." What do you think he meant by each statement?
- How can the assurance of past judgment (In Christ) and future judgment (of the world) impact our daily interactions with others?

Start doing: Christians live between two judgments. Their judgment for sin is past, and they have new life today. This means you can be honest about who you are knowing God loves you and accepts you.

Prayer Requests: Spend time praying together about what you shared tonight. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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